THE PHANTOM™
GHOST WHO WALKS
#11
MOONSTONE™
$3.99
cover A
Mike Bullock
Silvestre Szilagyi

THE PHANTOM™
GHOST WHO WALKS

created by
LEE FALK

For those who came in late...

NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO ON A REMOTE BANGALLAN BEACH, ONLY ONE SURVIVED A VICIOUS PIRATE ATTACK.
THE FIRST PHANTOM SWORE A SACRED OATH ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S KILLER.
...WILL DEVOTE MY LIFE TO THE DESTRUCTION OF PIRACY, GREED, CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE!
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION FOLLOWED, BUT TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE WAS ALWAYS ONE MAN... IMMORTAL.
NOW THE 21ST PHANTOM HAUNTS THE NIGHTMARES OF EVIL MEN EVERYWHERE.

"GODFALL" part four

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PHANTOM GROUP EDITOR **MIKE BULLOCK**

COVER BY STEVE SCOTT

SPECIAL THANKS TO
OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANT
ED RHOADES

AND TO **KAREN MOY**
AT KING FEATURES

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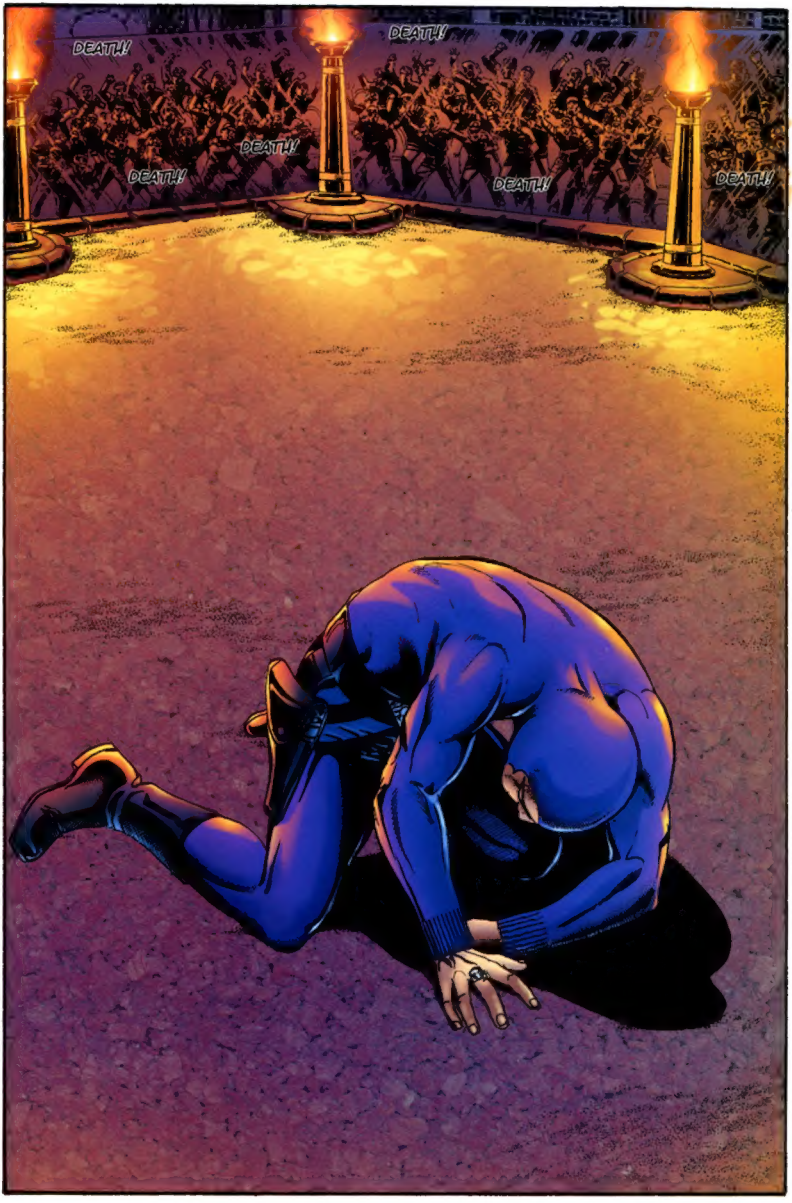
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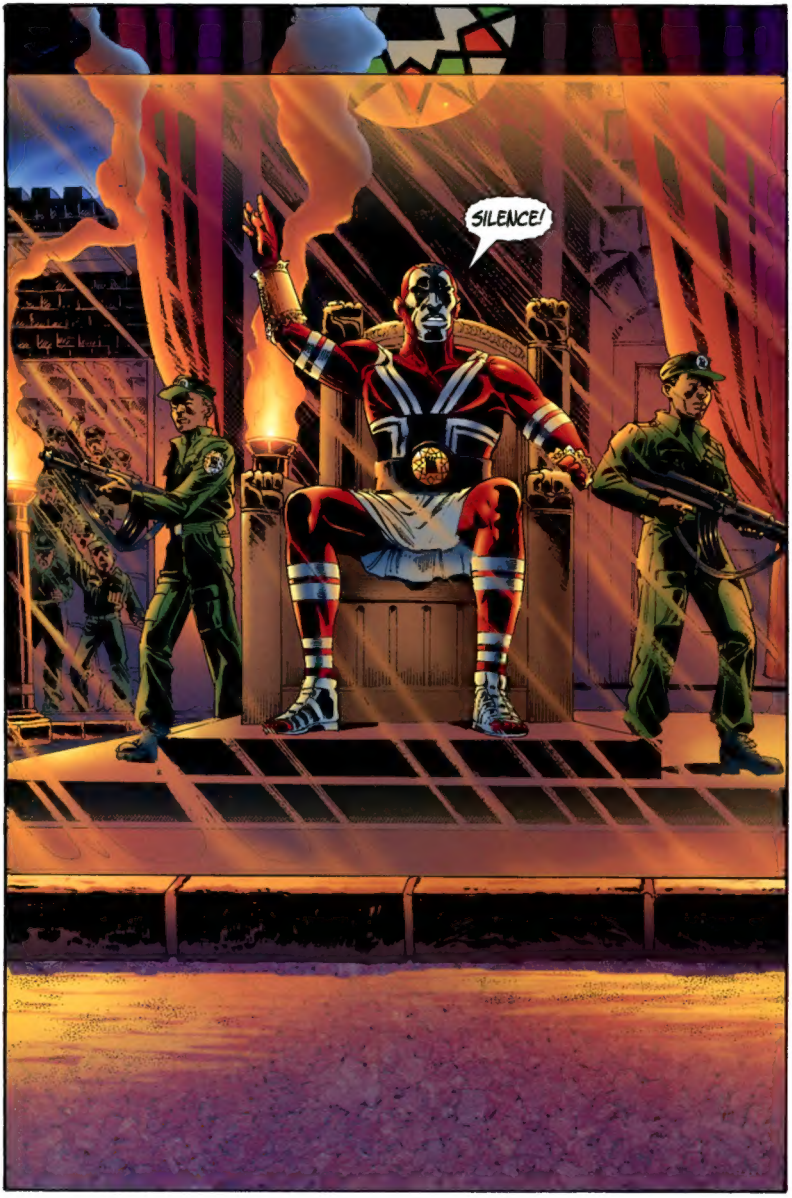

SILENCE!

WE MEET AGAIN, PHANTOM, AS I FORETOLD.
YOU AND YOUR PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR JUSTICE, BORN IN THE JUNGLE...
IN YOUR TINY WORLD, DO YOU TRULY THINK YOUR ACTIONS MEAN ANYTHING?
YOU ARE AN INSECT. WHILE I AM A GOD. YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO IMPRISON ME WAS BY MY WILL, NOT YOURS.
SINCE WHEN DOES A GOD NEED BULLET PROOF
SILENCE FLEA!

MY AGENTS HAVE BEEN PULLING YOUR STRINGS FOR MONTHS, PHANTOM.
...DO NOT WORRY ABOUT KAZI'S FAILURE TO DESTROY THE VATICAN*, IT IS ALL AS HIM FORESAW.
* SEE PHANTOM: GHOST WHO WALKS #3 – GHOST WHO EDITS
YOU ARE TO TAKE SALAMY, WHEN SHE ARRIVES. HIM HAS PROPHESIZED THAT PHANTOM WILL TRACK HER TO ME.
MAP OF
AHHH!
HIM WILL REWARD YOU FURTHER WHEN THIS IS OVER.
THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO SECURE HIM'S RELEASE. IF YOU BREATHE A WORD OF THIS, HIM WILL KNOW AND YOUR DAYS WILL END QUITE PAINFULLY.

THIS IS A NIGHT WE SHALL ALL REMEMBER, MY FRIENDS.
SANITARIU
KILL ANYONE WHO GETS IN OUR WAY.
JOSEPH
THANK YOU, MY CHILD.
YOU HAVE ALL EARNED YOUR ETERNAL LIFE THIS NIGHT.
SANITARIUM

SO YOU SEE PHANTOM, I MERELY ALLOWED YOU TO CAPTURE ME IN ORDER TO LEAD YOU HERE- NOW- TO THIS MOMENT-

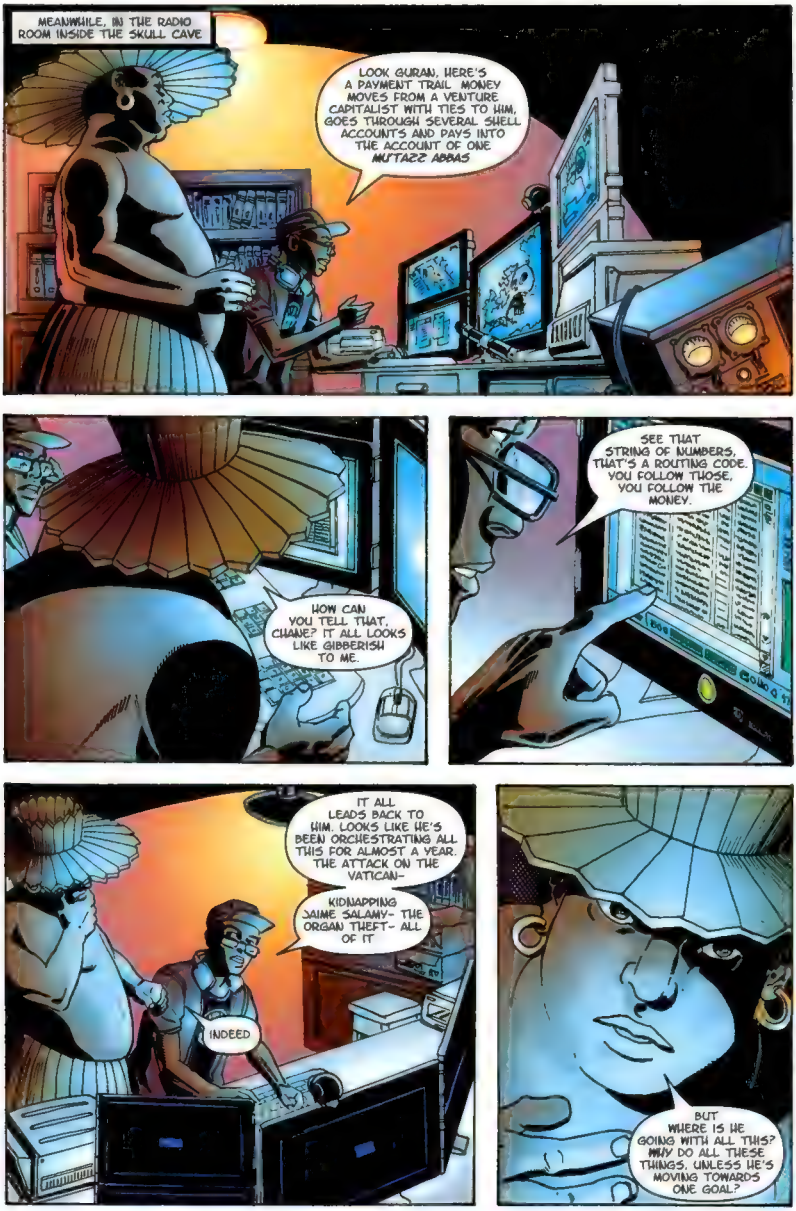
YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A FLEA ON THE BACK OF A REFUGEE CAMP DOG, DANCING AT THE END OF MY STRINGS!

AND FOR YOUR CRIMES - FLEA - YOU SHALL NOW BEGIN YOUR ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!

DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!
DEATH!!

SILENCE!
BEFORE YOU BREATHE YOUR LAST, PHANTOM...
YOU SHALL ENTERTAIN US—
WITH YOUR FIGHTING PROWESS.
HERE. NOW.
OPEN THE GATES!


MEANWHILE, IN THE RADIO ROOM INSIDE THE SKULL CAVE
LOOK GURAN, HERE'S A PAYMENT TRAIL. MONEY MOVES FROM A VENTURE CAPITALIST WITH TIES TO HIM, GOES THROUGH SEVERAL SHELL ACCOUNTS AND PAYS INTO THE ACCOUNT OF ONE MUTAZZ ABBAS
HOW CAN YOU TELL THAT, CHANE? IT ALL LOOKS LIKE GIBBERISH TO ME.
SEE THAT STRING OF NUMBERS, THAT'S A ROUTING CODE. YOU FOLLOW THOSE, YOU FOLLOW THE MONEY.
IT ALL LEADS BACK TO HIM. LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN ORCHESTRATING ALL THIS FOR ALMOST A YEAR. THE ATTACK ON THE VATICAN–
KIDNAPPING JAIME SALAMY– THE ORGAN THEFT– ALL OF IT
INDEED
BUT WHERE IS HE GOING WITH ALL THIS? WHY DO ALL THESE THINGS, UNLESS HE'S MOVING TOWARDS ONE GOAL?

WHATEVER IT IS, THEIR INVOLVEMENT TAKES IT TO ANOTHER LEVEL

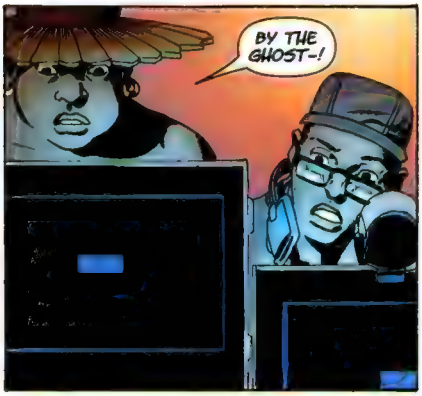
THIS WAS SHOT BY A SECURITY CAMERA OUTSIDE A BANK IN MAWITAAN THE LAST TIME DIANA TOOK THE CHILDREN INTO THE CITY
BANK

THAT WAS TWO MONTHS AGO. LOOKS LIKE HIM IS REALLY PULLING A LOT OF STRINGS ON THIS ONE

BUT WHY STALK DIANA AND THE CHILDREN? IF REVENGE IS WHAT HIM SEEKS, WHY NOT KILL THEM OR SNATCH THEM WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE?
AND, HOW DID HE TIE THEM TO PHANTOM?

LET ME CHECK SOMETHING... I HAVE A HUNCH...
IT LOOKS LIKE THE SAME PERSON WHO WIRED ALL THAT MONEY HAS ALSO COMPILED A HUGE DATABASE ON OUR FRIEND. IT LINKS HIM TO DIANA, AND THE KIDS..

THAT CAN'T BE GOOD...


BY THE GHOST-!

FIRST, WE WILL SEE AN EXHIBITION OF YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS, PHANTOM
IF YOU SHOULD TRY AND RESORT TO USING YOUR PISTOLS-
MY SNIPERS WILL KILL YOU WHERE YOU STAND
WHO NEEDS GUNS FOR THESE GOONS?

YAAAAH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DIE!
DEATH!
DEATH!
RAAH!
WHUNK
HE'S DOWN!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!

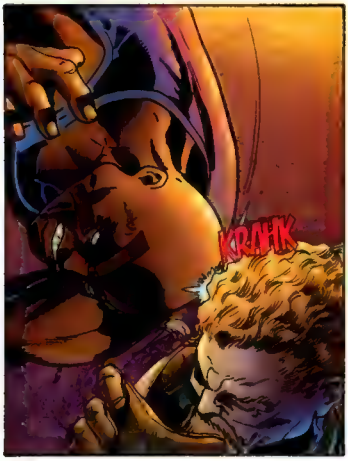
SHKK

KRAHK

I'LL KILL-

SHMAK
YOU-
Urk!

DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
HAVE YOU TWO MET?

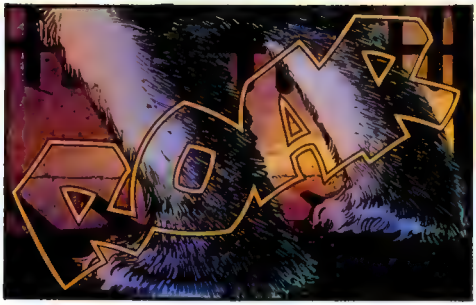

KRAHK

WHAT ELSE YA GOT?

THOSE THREE NEEDED A LESSON IN HUMILITY, PHANTOM. THANKS TO YOU, THEY HAVE NOW RECEIVED IT

YOU BROUGHT ME HERE FOR THAT? I'M NOT BUYING IT.

NOW, I HAVE SHOWN YOU THAT POWERFUL MEN DO MY BIDDING NEXT, YOU WILL SEE THAT EVEN THE WILDEST OF CREATURES ANSWER TO THE GOD KING. HIM!

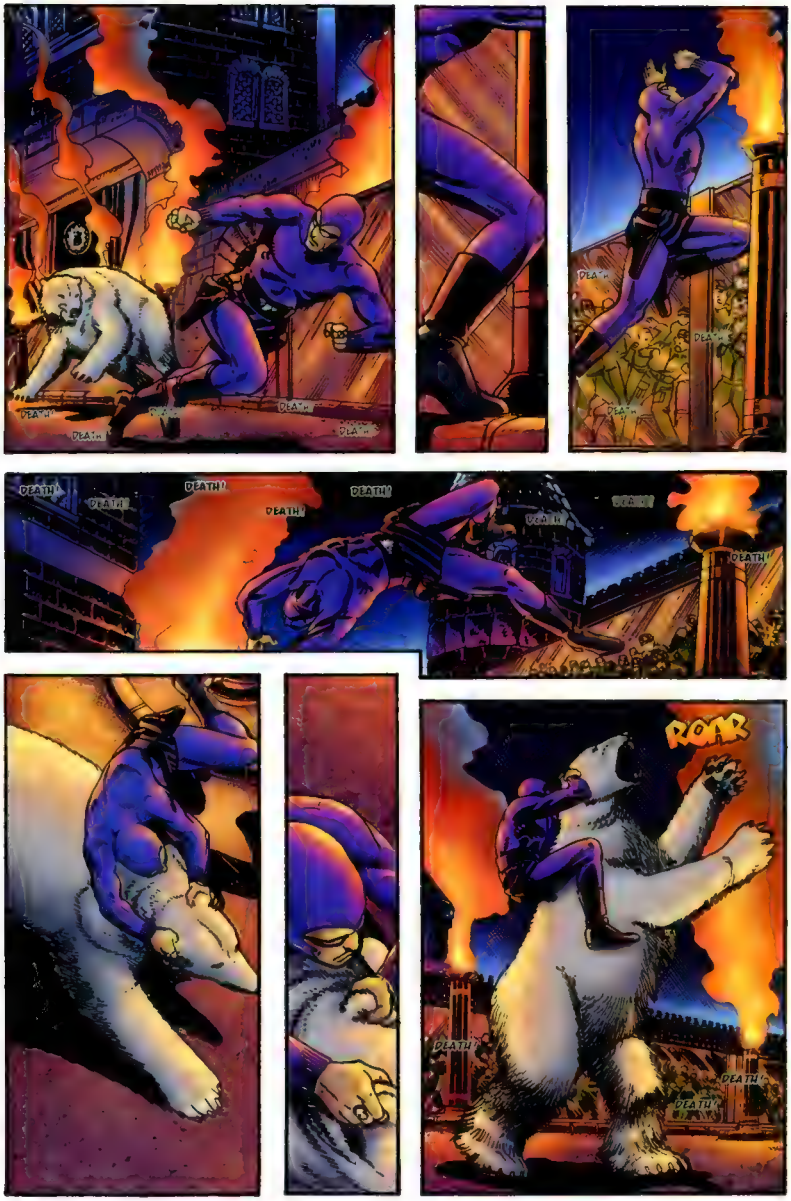

ROAR

...

ROAR

RAARR
A LITTLE FAR FROM HOME, AREN'T YOU, BOY?
ROOAAR
RAAA
EASY, BOY, EASY!
ROAR

RAAA
ROAR
KLUMP
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!
WHACK
DEATH!
DEATH!
THIS GUY COULD BE THE WBC CHAMP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DEATH!
DEATH!
ROAR
DEATH!
DEATH!
DEATH!

DEATH!
CALM DOWN, BOY. I'M YOUR FRIEND. TRUST ME.
DEATH?
AH, GET YOU OUT OF HERE AND SEND YOU HOME AGAIN.
WHAT?
HOW COULD--
DID HE POISON THE MONSTER?
ATTA BOY
IS THIS THE MASTERY OF BEASTS YOUR FALSE GOD PREACHES? AM I NOW DEVOURED BY THE CREATURE UNDER HIM'S CONTROL?
OR IS IT THAT YOUR FALSE GOD IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MAN AND A LIAR?
HIM WILL STRIKE YOU DEAD FOR THAT, BLASPHEMER!
I DON'T THINK SO.

KILL THE BLASPHEMER- MIGHTY HIM!
YES, KILL THE BLASPHEMER!
SILENCE, MY CHILDREN
YOUR FAITH IN ME IS STRONG. AND THIS BATTLE BETWEEN PHANTOM AND BEAST WAS A TEST OF THAT FAITH AND YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND-
WORTHY!
HIM!
HIM!
HIM!
SILENCE!
SILENCE MY CHILDREN
IT IS TIME FOR OUR LATEST RECRUITS TO FINISH OFF THIS FLEA KNOWN AS PHANTOM

KIT!!
HELOISE!
NOW, PHANTOM, YOU WILL MEET YOUR END
To Be Continued

BEHIND THE MASK

By Ed Rhoades

Chasing the Perfect Phantom Movie

There is a country song called "You Never Even Call Me By My Name."

It began with Steve Goodman writing one of his lyrical masterpieces, and then, as the story goes, his friend John Prine told him it wasn't the perfect country song because it didn't say anything about mama or trucks or trains or prison or getting drunk. With this in mind, Steve wrote a final verse:

WELL, I WAS DRUNK THE DAY MY MOM GOT OUT OF PRISON
AND I WENT TO PICK HER UP IN THE RAIN
BUT BEFORE I COULD GET TO THE STATION IN MY PICKUP TRUCK
SHE GOT RUN OVER BY A DAMNED OLD TRAIN

Considering that it was already an excellent song lyrically and musically, the clever ending put it over the top and made it a hit.

What does that have to do with The Phantom? I've been thinking about the necessary ingredients to make a perfect Phantom movie.

The Phantom has had two forays into the realm of the cinema. The first was the 1943 serial The Phantom which was excellent especially considering the lack of production values compared with today's films. The second was the Paramount film with Billy Zane which had merit despite a disappointing showing at the box office. It was ahead of its time in the sense that in the years to follow even minor comics heroes like *Hellboy* and *Daredevil* and found success with movie goers. Still, for longtime Phantom fans, it was an enjoyable presentation of our favorite comics character, but it did have problems. It followed the family friendly conventions of the newspaper strips, but adolescents remarked that they wouldn't watch a movie unless the rating was at least PG-13. It was an action film and Billy Zane told me that romantic scenes between the Phantom and Diana at Keela Wee Beach ended up on the cutting room floor. The conventional wisdom was that kids didn't want romance. Ironically, Billy informed Lee that due to his role in The Phantom, he received the attention that resulted in his part in Titanic the best selling romance film of all times watched by adults and kids of all ages.

There have been scripts and treatments for a new Phantom film. One had an inventive concept for the Phantom's costume, but didn't feature it often in the story. Another had the skull cave in a basement in a metropolitan area making it resemble a retooled Batman script. So far it appears that no script has emerged that can find the financial backing necessary to make the movie. Films today are expensive and someone with deep pockets has to be convinced the vehicle will be commercial enough to make a profit.

What will it take? Archie comics writer Paul Castiglia and I worked on a treatment that we submitted to Hyde Park when they had the license, but the truth is investors want someone with some fame and a track record before they put their money into it. Still, I think we had the right idea.

BEHIND THE MASK

(CONTINUED)

What are the necessary components for a successful Phantom film? First, The Phantom has succeeded on a global level with millions of readers for a reason the genius of Lee Falk. We felt that the story needs to at least in part be based on Lee's classic work. For starters, we chose Lee's origin story as shown in his first Avon paperback. Romance gives another dimension to any story, so it was vital that the story take place before the Phantom marries Diana. We also felt that a mysterious fantasy/sci fi element is a drawing card, so we utilized aspects of The Little People especially Lee's later explanation that they were stranded space travelers.

Mark Verheiden, famed TV and movie writer, mentioned to me that when he wrote his outstanding DC Phantom comics, Lee's only request was that he shows the Phantom's rapport with animals so we made that an important piece of the story. Hero, Devil and Guran are vital components of the Phantom's world, but for his global adventures, Devil is the companion who is more likely to make the trip.

It's also easier to attract younger audiences with a more youthful character in a modern setting, so we stressed the fact that the Phantom was in college when the adventure begins just like Lee's story, but our story is in modern times, several decades later than Lee's Sunday strip version or Avon paperback.

Although I think the new SyFy Phantom offering actually works well with a high tech costume worn by the son of the current Phantom, we preferred to have at least a more traditional mask and cowl. Like the SyFy version, we feel it's important to keep the skull and goodmark motifs. Both the Sy Fy story and the Phantom 2040 animated series featured a young man unaware and resistant toward the idea of his destiny as The Phantom. That works, but we like Lee's convention of the dying Phantom handing the rings over to a dedicated son which removes the option of the "man against himself" plot. Since our hero is jungle bred and highly trained for urban difficulties as well, the "man against environment" plot also makes less sense, so the "man against man" is left requiring a formidable adversary.

Every version, cartoon, film, comic and TV Phantom stories feature a skull cave, but political correctness seems to have ruled out any use or at least focus on the skull throne in the Paramount or SyFy Phantom environments. Although my childhood memory of the throne is that of it being cool and spooky, there may be something to be said for not using something that could even suggest The Phantom ruling Africa preying on ignorance or superstition of people. The Phantom's environment has changed, but using the tool of fear and myth to terrorize villains is still an interesting weapon for a mortal hero who must pretend he is The Man Who Cannot Die.

Deciding which things to keep, which to update and which elements The Phantom must outgrow to be successful in a modern film must be an agonizing task for anyone to consider when making financial investments in today's competitive movie market. However, it would be so nice if someone finds success in getting it right for new and older Phantom fans.

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WE DID IT!

LRA BILL PASSES CONGRESS

In the span of one year, we have made history!

In April of 2009, 80,000 of us stood in solidarity with the child soldiers trapped in Joseph Kony's war. In June, we were two-thousand strong on the lawn of Capitol Hill, asking our leaders to consider the LRA Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act. In January of this year, we delivered 253,512 signatures to the State Department in support of Kony's arrest.

Our tenacity, annoying phone calls, hundreds of local office lobby meetings, and certainly our sleeping bag assaults (Oklahoma) paid off and the bill has been passed. Getting a bill passed through Congress is an enormous accomplishment. In the last session of Congress, only 3% of bills introduced were actually passed. **We've done the impossible!**

Now, it goes to President Obama's desk to be signed into law.

Lawwwww. We have made it law to pursue Joseph Kony. Let that sink in.

This is confirmation that young people have a powerful political voice. We have asked our government and our President to pursue Joseph Kony and other top LRA commanders, to disarm and disband his militia, and to restore stability to those areas of Africa that have been terrorized by the LRA. They have heard us, and now we will hold them accountable to their commitment. This is an entirely solvable conflict. In the aftermath of Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Darfur, it is with our generation's united voice that we proclaim national self interest is no longer our only priority.

We celebrate this victory with our partners Resolve: Uganda and The Enough Project, and now we must pressure the Obama Administration to follow through on this important mandate, to set a precedent for justice, and to protect these children who have too long been trapped in a war against their will.

We will see them come home.

Fist pumps and aggressive status updates with too many exclamation points are encouraged.

Sincerely!!!!!!!!!!!!

Invisible Children

Invisible children

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MOONSTONE™

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